

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 OMB-01
IO-13 BIB-01 VO-05 OES-07 DLOS-09 /122 W
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P 050927Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7507
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 03773

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE, US
SUBJECT: US-GDR RELATIONS.

REF: BERLIN 3699

1. DURING LUNCH JUNE 1 WITH DCM, GDR MFA USA DESK
OFFICER MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS
OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, SOME OF WHICH DEPT. MAY FIND
USEFUL IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING FOREIGN MINISTER
FISCHER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ELM, WHO WAS NOTETAKER
DURING AMBASSADOR'S MAY 31 MEETING WITH FISCHER (REFTEL),
SAID HE HAD WORKED HARD ON BRIEFING PAPERS FOR VISIT,
BUT COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT FISCHER WOULD FOLLOW THEM
IN WASHINGTON. ELM WAS NOT CERTAIN HOW LONG THE MEETING
WITH THE SECRETARY WAS SCHEDULED TO LAST, AND INDICATED
THAT FISCHER WOULD CONCENTRATE ON BILATERAL MATTERS.

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2. CONSULAR CONVENTION. WHEN ASKED WHAT WE MIGHT
EXPECT FROM FISCHER ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, ELM ALL
BUT SAID THAT FISCHER WOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE
SECRETARY. ELM WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE DRAFT LANGUAGE WE
HAD OFFERED JANUARY 31 (BERLIN 770, PARA. 10) WAS
"IMPOSSIBLE" FOR THE GDR TO ACCEPT. IT SIMPLY WENT TOO FAR
ON THE MATTER OF GERMAN NATIONALITY. HE ASSERTED AT THE

SAME TIME THAT THE GDR HAD BEEN LOOKING CAREFULLY AT THE DRAFT LANGUAGE WE HAD PROVIDED AND WOULD SEEK TO INCORPORATE AS MUCH OF IT AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR COUNTER-DRAFT. HE IMPLIED THAT FISCHER WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAND OVER GDR DRAFT LANGUAGE DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY.

3. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. ELM INDICATED IN A GENERAL WAY THAT FISCHER WOULD RAISE THE VARIOUS COMMERCIAL MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GDR ALONG THE LINES BEIL HAD DONE DURING HIS MAY VISIT. ELM ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER FISCHER WOULD BE GETTING A REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY ON THE MATTER OF PERMISSION FOR THE GDR TO OPEN ADDITIONAL TRADE OFFICES IN NEW YORK. HE ASSERTED THIS WAS WHAT BEIL HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. DCM SAID IT WAS HIS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT USG RESPONSE TO THE GDR REQUESTS WOULD ONLY COME AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. ELM MERELY REPEATED HIS EARLIER "UNDERSTANDING" OF AN ANSWER DURING THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY.

4. DCM THEN ASKED ELM WHETHER HE WAS AWARE OF NOTE EMBASSY HAD SENT MFA ON MAY 25 ON MATTER OF L VISAS FOR LANGE AND MAY 22 LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM TO AMBASSADOR SIEBER; ELM CLAIMED NOT TO BE AWARE OF NOTE, ASSERTING IT WOULD HAVE GONE TO LEGAL RATHER THAN TO USA SECTION, OR OF NEWSOM-SIEBER LETTER. (IN JUNE 1 MEETING CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER HAD WITH MFT OFFICIAL SCHMIED, LATTER ALSO CLAIMED TO UNAWARE OF EMBASSY NOTE, AND ECON OFFICER PROVIDED HIM WITH A COPY.) DCM TOLD ELM OF GENERAL CONTENT OF NOTE AND LETTER AND SAID EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF LANGE L VISA MATTER TO CLEAR UP ANY UNCERTAINTIES. OUR AIM WAS TO FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF APPROPRIATE VISA SO THAT LANGE COULD CARRY OUT HIS FUNCTIONS.

5. CLAIMS. ELM GAVE NO INDICATION THAT FISCHER WOULD HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC TO SAY ON THE MATTER OF CLAIMS. ELM LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GDR WAS IN NO HURRY TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSALS MADE AT THE END OF MARCH BY MESSRS. KWIATEK AND MCCLELLAN. DCM NOTED THAT WE WERE EXPECTING A RESPONSE AND REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE FOR PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS OF MOVEMENT EARLIER RATHER THAN LATER IN THE ISSUE.

6. FEININGER PAINTINGS/POSTAGE STAMPS/DUERER PAINTINGS. IN DISCUSSING THESE TOPICS, ELM SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY FISCHER WOULD BRING UP THE MATTER OF THE FEININGER PAINTINGS WITH THE SECRETARY. ELM WENT ON TO SAY THAT

"SOME PEOPLE IN THE GDR" SAW NO REASON TO RETURN THE FEININGER PAINTINGS WHILE THE US HELD GDR PROPERTY, I.E. THE DUERER PAINTINGS AND THE HAWAII POSTAGE STAMPS. THE GDR FEELS IT SHOULD GET "SOMETHING IN RETURN" FOR GIVING BACK THE FEININGER PAINTINGS. WHILE HE COULD GIVE NO FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE MEANING OF THE GDR'S NOTE TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MUTUAL RETURN OF CULTURAL OBJECTS (BERLIN 1600), ELM IMPLIED THE GDR INTENDED TO USE THE FEININGER PAINTINGS AS A LEVER FOR SOME ACTION BY THE US ON THE DUERER PAINTINGS AND THE POSTAGE STAMPS. ELM ACKNOWLEDGED THE GDR COURT'S DECISION ON THE FEININGER

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PAINTINGS, THAT THEIR LEGAL STATUS WAS NOT IN DISPUTE AND THEREFORE DIFFERENT FROM DUERER PAINTINGS/POSTAGE STAMPS, BUT APPEARED TO BE UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON RELATIONS THAT A LINKING OF THESE MATTERS MIGHT CAUSE.

7. FISHERIES. ELM SAID THE GDR WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS REQUEST FOR A FISHERIES ALLOCATION OF SOME SORT THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT FISCHER WOULD RAISE THIS WITH THE SECRETARY. ELM ASSERTED THE GDR HAD INFORMATION THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAD NOT USED ALL THEIR ALLOCATIONS, AND THE GDR MIGHT ASK FOR THESE "UNUSED" ALLOCATIONS. DCM SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND

GDR CONCERN, AND NOTED THE EMBASSY HAD URGED WASHINGTON TO GIVE FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION FOR AN ALLOCATION TO THE GDR IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS ALTHOUGH WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

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8. BAUD. ELM SAID HE WOULD ONCE AGAIN LOOK INTO THIS MATTER, ALTHOUGH HE COULD GIVE NO GUARANTEE WHEN THE CAPACITY COULD BE RAISED FROM 50 TO 75 BAUD.

9. EUR/CE DIRECTOR'S TRIP TO GDR. ELM WELCOMED FORTHCOMING VISIT BY EUR/CE DIRECTOR WOESSNER. DCM NOTED THAT MR. WOESSNER WOULD BE PLEASED TO ENGAGE IN ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH INTERESTED GDR OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TYPE THAT DR. PLAGEMANN HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR IN THE DEPARTMENT. ELM THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A USEFUL IDEA, AND UNDERTOOK TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. BOLEN

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